Dear Friends and Neighbors:

Now that the 2003-2004 session is drawing to a close, I'm writing to update you with information on key legislation from this session.

In this session report you will find my continuing efforts to increase job growth, hold criminals accountable, ensure SeniorCare prescription drug availability and achieve greater accountability and efficiency in state government.

As always, thank you for your contacts this session on legislation that was important to you. I welcome your comments and questions on legislative matters. Please see the information next to this letter for how to contact me with your questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

CAROL ROESSLER
State Senator

18th Senate District



How to Contact Me:

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Job Growth

Small Business Regulatory Review Board -

We created the Small Business Regulatory Review Board, making it easier for businesses to grow in Wisconsin. The Board will consist of members of eight state agencies, six representatives of small businesses and two members of the Legislature. The Board will review new state agency regulations to make the rules more efficient, consistent and effective

Jobs Creation Act – The Jobs Creation Act is the most comprehensive package of regulatory reform in Wisconsin's recent history. The Act streamlines many of the state's regulations, making it easier and timelier for businesses and individuals to receive necessary permits without compromising or reducing environmental standards. This was the number one barrier for companies wanting to expand and create jobs in Wisconsin.

Airport Development Zones – I authored a new economic incentive, Airport Development Zones, which would create tax credits for businesses adjacent to airports, fostering job growth. Representative Underheim and I will reintroduce this bill next session.

Senator Carol Roessler

Spring 2004

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Pictured at the Peeping Tom bill signing, Senator Roessler, the Governor, law enforcement and two brave Peeping Tom victims.

Crime/Justice

Peeping Tom - The Fox Valley has seen a drastic increase in "Peeping Toms." Working with local law enforcement officials and two brave victims, I introduced the "Peeping Tom" legislation. The passage of this legislation empowers law enforcement agents to charge peeping as a "sex crime" and in certain situations, place perpetrators on the Sex Offenders List.

Stalking – In order to keep pace with technological advances, I co-authored legislation to criminalize certain stalking acts. One such act is the use of the Global Positioning System for the purpose of stalking an individual.

Sharing of Juvenile Records between Law Enforcement, Schools and Social

Services – Often children who commit violent acts in schools have a history of violence. Under current law their criminal records cannot legally be shared between schools, law enforcement and social services. This legislation allows these officials to share information to identify students who may be at risk of committing violent acts.

Domestic Violence Law – I was the Senate author of legislation that makes the presence of domestic abuse a primary consideration when determining custody of a child. This law will better protect both children and their parents who are victims of abuse.

Substance Abuse Offender Accountability & Public Safety Act – I introduced a bill that would allow counties to apply for grants to provide treatment for non-violent offenders. This would increase accountability, stop the revolving door, reduce recidivism, increase public safety, reduce the number of victims and lower costs for prisons. This legislation was widely supported and passed the State Senate 33-0; however, it was not voted on before adjournment of the State Assembly. I will re-introduce this legislation next session.

Health

Prescription Drugs from Canada – I coauthored a Senate Resolution calling on Congress to allow licensed U.S. pharmacies and distributors to re-import prescription medication from Canada. I am encouraged that Tommy Thompson, Secretary of U.S. Health and Human Services, has appointed a new Task Force on Drug Importation.

Organ Donation – In an effort to ease the financial burden for living donors, I co-authored legislation that created a Wisconsin income tax deduction of up to \$10,000 for a person who, while living, donates one or more of his or her organs. The deduction may be claimed for travel, lodging expenses and lost wages.

Dental and Dental Hygiene Services -

I authored legislation that allows dentists and dental hygienists to voluntarily provide dental care to Medicaid individuals while covered under the state's liability policy. This Act has greatly increased dental care provided by volunteer dentists to low-income patients.

Certificate of Birth – Currently, women who give birth to stillborn babies have no official record that the birth occurred. Providing these families with an official record of birth of their stillborn children is very important to them. I authored legislation creating a new certificate called a certificate of birth resulting in stillbirth.

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Cancer Drug Repository Program – The Cancer Drug Repository Program, which I co-sponsored, provides an alternative to throwing away costly medication and supplies when other cancer patients no longer need them. This Program will accept unused, unopened, individually packaged prescription drugs from individuals and redistribute them to uninsured and low-income cancer patients. I will introduce legislation next session to create a more expansive repository program.



Testifying with Cheryl Hartman on the HIV/AIDS testing bill.

HIV Testing – Oshkosh teacher Cheryl Hartman and other local school district employees asked me to introduce legislation to add school district employees to the list of professionals who currently can require that the blood of an individual, to whom they were significantly exposed, be tested for the presence of HIV. These individuals shared compelling stories about teachers who have experienced incidents where they have been significantly exposed to student's blood while on the job.

Health Benefit Purchasing Cooperative -

The goals of this project are to stabilize insurance rates, improve health care delivery in rural Wisconsin and provide affordable, quality health care coverage to farmers and other small business employers and employees who have little or no access to health insurance. There will be five pilot sites for this project throughout the state.

SeniorCare Prescription Drug Assistance

Program – As Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Health and Aging, I recently heard several people testify about their struggle to pay for prescription drugs and was alarmed to discover they were not aware of their eligibility for SeniorCare. This program provides prescription drug assistance for Wisconsin residents who are 65 years of age or older who meet certain eligibility criteria. SeniorCare Customer Service Hotline: 1-800-657-2038.

Environment

Brownfields – As a leader in brownfields initiatives, I continued my efforts to further help communities clean up contaminated land or abandoned industrial sites and turn them into economically viable land. One initiative creates a brownfields revolving loan fund if Wisconsin is awarded a \$4 million grant from the Environmental Protection Agency. The other legislation creates a voluntary insurance program which will reduce the cost of environmental insurance, increase its use in Wisconsin and get more cleanups done.

Green Tier – Creates a multi-level program providing incentives to businesses, local units of government, and other regulated entities, to conduct comprehensive environmental examinations of their facilities. The program creates a cooperative partnership between regulators and the regulated community to promptly rectify environmental violations. The program provides limited protections for companies that conduct environmental audits and rewards businesses for voluntarily exceeding the state's high environmental standards.

Groundwater Protection – This legislation prevents significant groundwater withdrawals that would damage sensitive surface waters or municipal water supplies.



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18th SENATE DISTRICT

Roesslev Report End of Session Wrap Up







"Government Waste is the Cruelest Tax"

Joint Legislative Audit Committee

As Co-Chair of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee I am committed to:

- eliminating government waste;
- eliminating duplication;
- finding accountability in state government agencies; and
- monitoring audited state programs and services.

DOT Major Highways - Audit Initiated Legislation

I co-authored major legislation giving the Transportation Projects Commission (TPC) more authority to address cost overruns in the DOT Major Highways Program. This legislation allows TPC approval only after the final environmental impact statement is received, it takes politics out of the process by not allowing legislators to enumerate Major Highway Projects without TPC approval and it provides a change management team for fiscal and management oversight.